

Practical Dove Keeping Complete Guide - Learn All About Dove Care and Maintenance

The Fascinating World of Dove Keeping

Doves are beautiful and gentle birds that have been admired for centuries due to their elegance and peaceful nature. Their soothing cooing sounds and graceful flight patterns make them a popular choice for bird enthusiasts and pet owners alike.

If you're considering dove keeping as a hobby or wanting to add these delightful creatures to your flock, this practical guide will cover everything you need to know about dove care and maintenance. From selecting the right dove breeds to providing them with proper housing, feeding, and general well-being, let's dive into the wonderful world of dove keeping!



Practical Dove Keeping a Complete Guide

by Joan Hinds(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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Choosing the Right Dove Breeds

Before starting your dove keeping journey, it's essential to select the appropriate dove breeds that align with your preferences and needs. There is a wide range of dove breeds available, each with its unique characteristics and appearances.

Popular dove breeds include the Ringneck Dove, Diamond Dove, and White Dove. Each of these breeds has its specific traits, such as size, coloration, and personality. By understanding the qualities of different dove breeds, you can choose the ones that best suit your space, temperament, and aesthetic preferences.

Creating a Comfortable and Safe Dove Habitat

Providing your doves with a suitable living space is crucial for their well-being. A spacious and secure aviary or dovecote will allow your doves to fly and exercise, promoting their physical health and mental stimulation.

Ensure that the dove habitat is protected from predators, such as cats or birds of prey, by using sturdy mesh or wire fencing. The aviary should have enough perches, nest boxes, and branches for the doves to rest, roost, and feel at ease.

Decorating the dove habitat with various natural elements like plants, rocks, and water features can create an enriching environment for your doves. These additions provide opportunities for exploration and mimic their natural habitat, enhancing their overall well-being.

Feeding and Nutrition

Proper nutrition is vital to keep your doves healthy and content. A balanced diet will contribute to their overall well-being and longevity.

The primary component of a dove's diet is seeds, supplemented with grains, fruits, and vegetables. A commercially available dove feed mix can ensure that

your doves receive the necessary nutrients. Additionally, offering grit and other mineral supplements aids in digestion.

Ensure a constant supply of fresh water is available for your doves. Water baths can also be provided for them to keep clean and maintain their beautiful plumage.

Healthcare and General Maintenance

Regular check-ups by an avian veterinarian are crucial for maintaining your doves' health. These professionals can provide necessary vaccinations and offer advice on preventive measures against common dove diseases.

Keeping the dove habitat clean is essential to prevent the build-up of droppings, which can lead to hygiene issues and potential health problems. Regular cleaning and disinfection of the aviary will ensure a healthy environment for your doves.

Handling your doves gently and providing them with regular opportunities for social interaction will foster trust and deepen the bond between you and your birds.

, dove keeping is a rewarding and fulfilling hobby that allows you to appreciate the beauty of these peaceful birds up close. By following this practical guide and learning about dove care and maintenance, you can ensure a comfortable and happy life for your doves.

Remember to choose the right dove breeds, create a safe and comfortable habitat, provide a nutritious diet, and offer proper healthcare. With these essential aspects in mind, you'll be well on your way to becoming a successful dove keeper and enjoying the joys of dove companionship.



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My first involvement with pigeons was in the early fifties and I kept them for many years before leaving home to join the military. My involvement with doves is more recent and I have been keeping them since early 2013. At first I jumped in with both feet and expended a lot of time, money and effort, before arriving at what I consider to be the perfect method of dove keeping. "Perfect for me that is!"

In the opinion of my dear wife I am an 'enigma.' Whilst I am a bit of a perfectionist, (I like things to be aesthetically appealing and will work hard to maintain that standard),it appears that I also have a 'lazy gene' and will go out of my way to find an easy way of doing things. After much experimentation my dove keeping is now as hassle free and as easy as I can get it, albeit it is perhaps just a little bit unconventional.

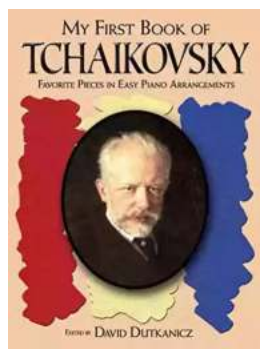
Although my book will tell you most, if not all of what you need to know about keeping doves it is not a reference book. It is essentially my story based on my own dove keeping experiences.

Although not intended as a reference book; i.e. it is not cross indexed to death, it is nevertheless a comprehensive guide on all aspects of dove keeping; including: Why keep doves? - Types of dove. - Anatomy of a dove. - Are doves a nuisance? - Is it a dove or a pigeon? - Advice for buying / obtaining doves. - My top ten tips for new dove keepers. - Advantages and disadvantages of the various types of habitation. - Guarding against predators. - Location of the dovecote. - Tips for buying a dovecote. - Erecting a dovecote. - Roosting areas. - From the cradle to the grave. - Hand rearing young chicks. - Hand taming your doves. - Sexing young doves. - Homing doves. - Providing care. - Ailments and medication. - Limiting flight numbers. - Catching doves. - Humane despatch or culling. - To ring or not to ring? - Record keeping. - Regular cleaning and maintenance. Dealing with droppings at the base of the dovecote. - Replacing a dovecote or removing for maintenance. - Building your own dovecote. - Disconnected jottings. - Useful links, - and much more.



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